(19) World Intellectual Property Organization International Bureau

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(43) International Publication Date 11 March 2004 (11.03.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number WO 2004/020985 A1

(51) International Patent Classification7: G01N 21/55, 21/77

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/GB2003/003803

(22) International Filing Date:

2 September 2003 (02.09.2003)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

0220341.2 0309927.2 2 September 2002 (02.09.2002) 30 April 2003 (30.04.2003)

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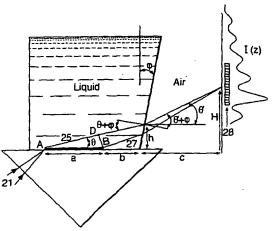
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- (81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW),

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: BIOSENSOR



(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to a system and method for detecting a physical, chemical or biochemical reaction. The system of the present invention comprises a coherent radiation source for producing an incident wave (21); a carrier surface (AB) for supporting a specimen to be analysed, the carrier surface mounted on a substrate and capable of supporting surface electromagnetic waves (SEW); means for splitting the incident wave into an SEW and a first scattered wave (25), wherein the SEW propagates along the carrier surface and interacts with the specimen; means for generating a second scattered wave (27) from the SEW; and, a detector (28) for monitoring the interference between the first scattered wave and the second scattered wave. The invention also relates to carrier surfaces for use on the system. A carrier chip according to the present invention comprises a dielectric substrate; and a conductive film formed on the surface of the substrate suitable for carrying the specimen; wherein the conductive film comprises first means for splitting an incident wave into a first scattered wave and a surface electromagnetic wave (SEW), the SEW propagating along the carrier surface and interacting with the specimen, and a second means for generating a second scattered wave from the SEW.

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Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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